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IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An armature for a rotating machine having a circular core of a magnetic material and a plurality of magnetic pole teeth extending radially from said circular core and terminating at terminal ends spaced from said circular core, each of said magnetic pole teeth defining a core and an enlargement formed at the terminal end of said core, to define slots formed between adjacent magnetic pole teeth, each of said slots having a mouth formed between adjacent enlargements, an insulating bobbin having a circular portion lying on one side of said circular core and leg portions that extend for the length of said pole teeth at least on the sides of said slots and insulator extending portions extending at least along the side of said enlargements facing said circular core and defining a fixed and open clearance slot therebetween for protecting windings formed by a winding needle from damage by the winding needle and for forming a fixed clearance opening to receive at least a portion of the winding needle.

2. and 3. (Previously cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) An armature for a rotating machine as set forth in claim 1, wherein the insulator extending portions have a greater thickness than the insulating bobbin leg portions.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended)An armature for a rotating machine as set forth in claim ~~5~~, 1 wherein the open clearance slot is formed between portions of the insulator portions that define an opening smaller than the diameter of the received winding nozzle tip.